



NC State University

North Carolina **Solar Center**

The Net Metering & Interconnection Labyrinth

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INTERSTATE RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNCIL



Presentation Outline

- I. EPAct 2005 Impact**
- II. Other State Developments**
- III. Overall Picture**
- IV. Public Resources**



lab·y·rinth *n.*

1. An intricate structure of **interconnecting** passages through which it is difficult to find one's way; a maze.
2. Something highly intricate or convoluted in character, composition, or construction: *a labyrinth of rules and regulations.*
3. *Anatomy.* A group of complex **interconnecting** anatomical cavities.

(Excerpts from the American Heritage Dictionary)



Energy Policy Act of 2005

Section 1254: Interconnection.

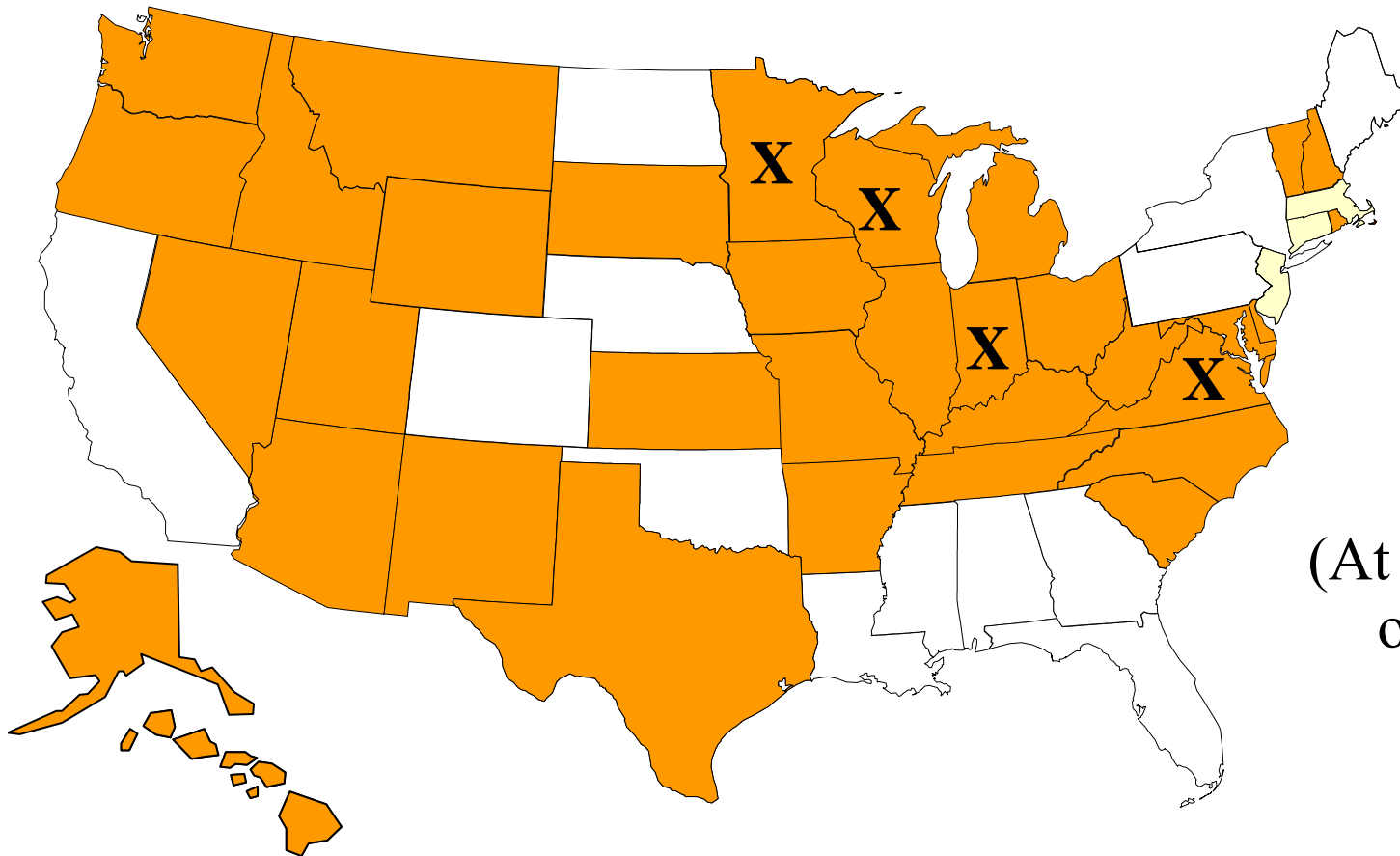
PUCs and certain nonregulated utilities must “consider” an interconnection standard. Must begin “consideration” by 8/8/06; complete “determination” by 8/8/07.

Section 1251: Net Metering.

PUCs and certain nonregulated utilities must “consider” a net-metering standard. Must begin “consideration” by 8/8/07; complete “determination” by 8/8/08.



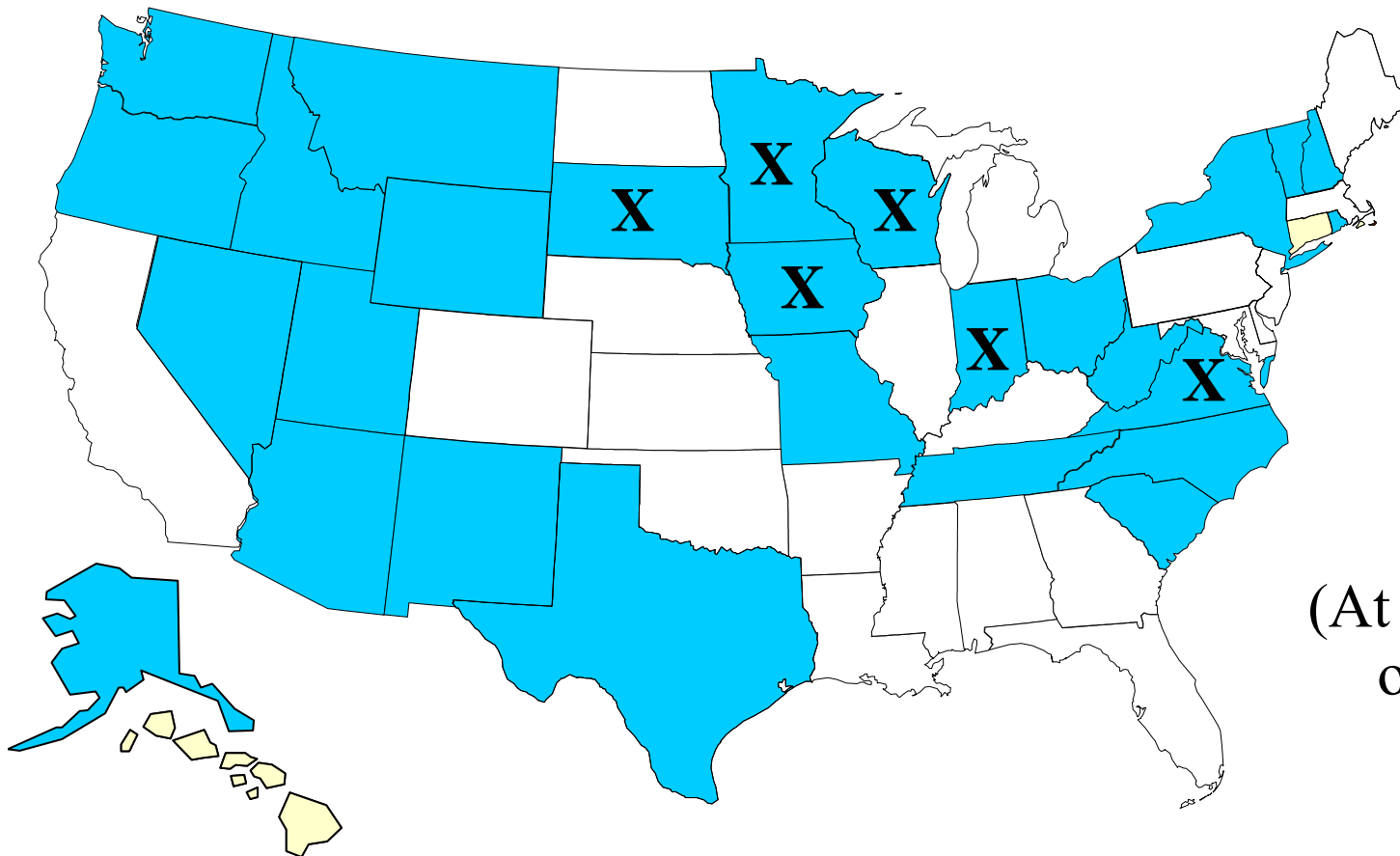
“Consideration” of Interconnection Standard



(At least 34 states as
of October 2006)



“Consideration” of Net-Metering Standard



(At least 27 states as
of October 2006)



Interconnection Standards Adopted

(since fall 2005)

- **CO:** three interconnection levels; 10-MW limit
- **PA:** four interconnection levels; no limit specified
- **IN:** three interconnection levels; no limit specified
- **VT:** two interconnection levels; no limit specified
- **WA:** 25-kW limit; standards for larger systems in progress



Net-Metering Rules Adopted

(since fall 2005)

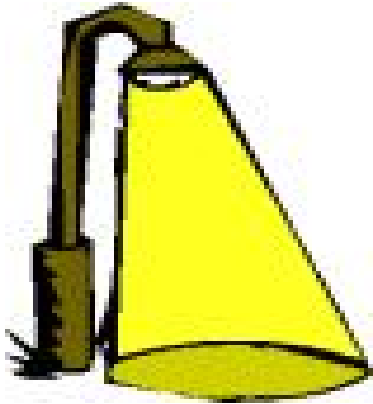
- **CO:** 2-MW limit; annual NEG reconciliation
- **PA:** 2-MW/1-MW/50-kW limit; monthly NEG reconciliation
- **LA:** 100-kW/25-kW limit; indefinite NEG carryover
- **NC:** 100-kW/20-kW limit; annual NEG reconciliation



Net-Metering Laws Revised

(since fall 2005)

- Aggregate capacity raised: CA, VT, WA
- Individual capacity raised: WA
- More resources eligible: OR, NC, VT, VA, WA
- NEG treatment clarified/improved: MD, NC
- Leased systems eligible: MD, VA

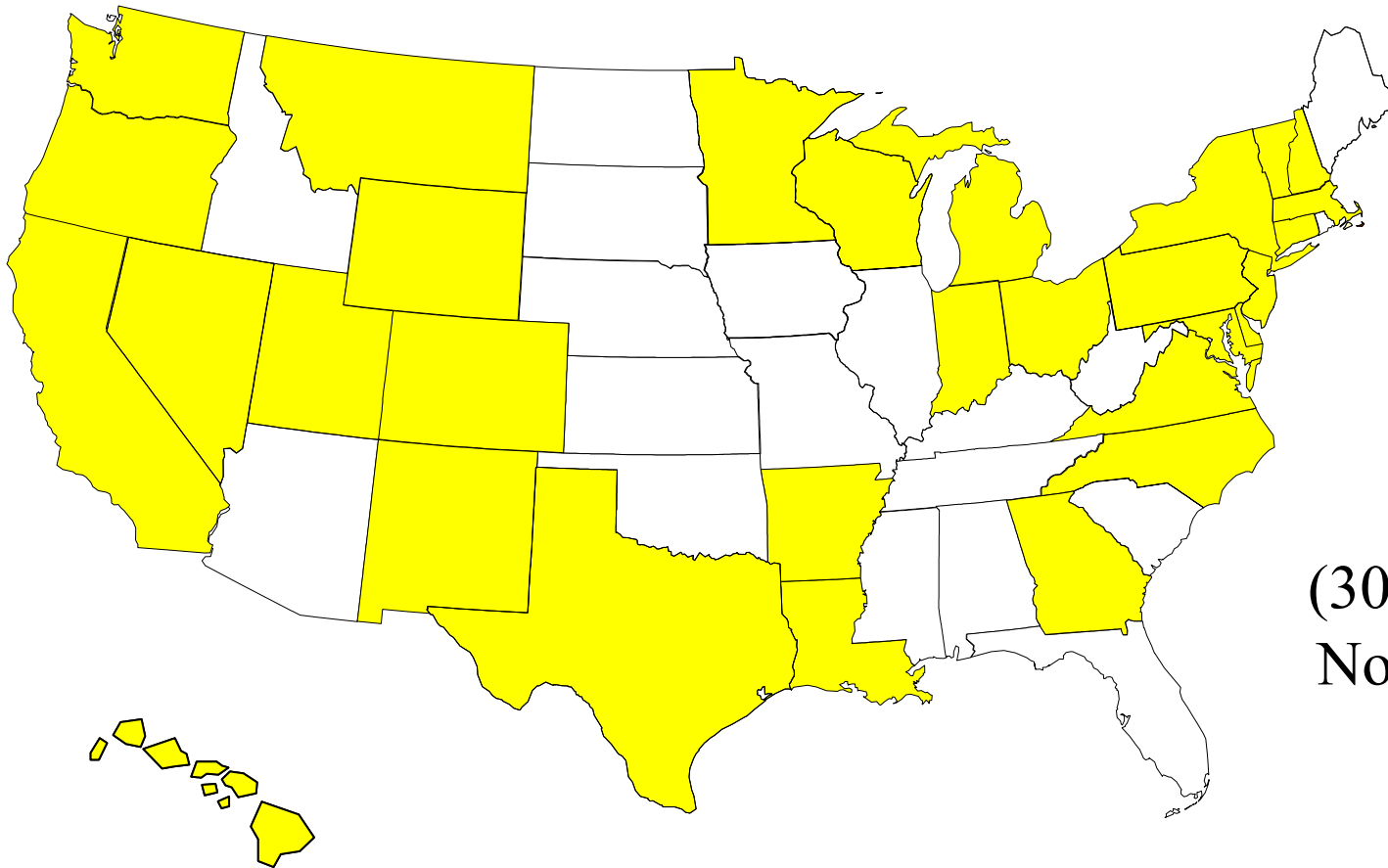


Spotlight: Best Practices

- Maximum system capacity ≥ 2 MW
- All renewables eligible (+ CHP)
- All utilities must participate
- All customer classes eligible
- No limit on aggregate capacity
- Annual reconciliation of NEG, or no expiration
- Interconnection standards
- No application fee
- No special charges, fees or tariff change
- Customer retains RECs



Interconnection Standards for Net Metering



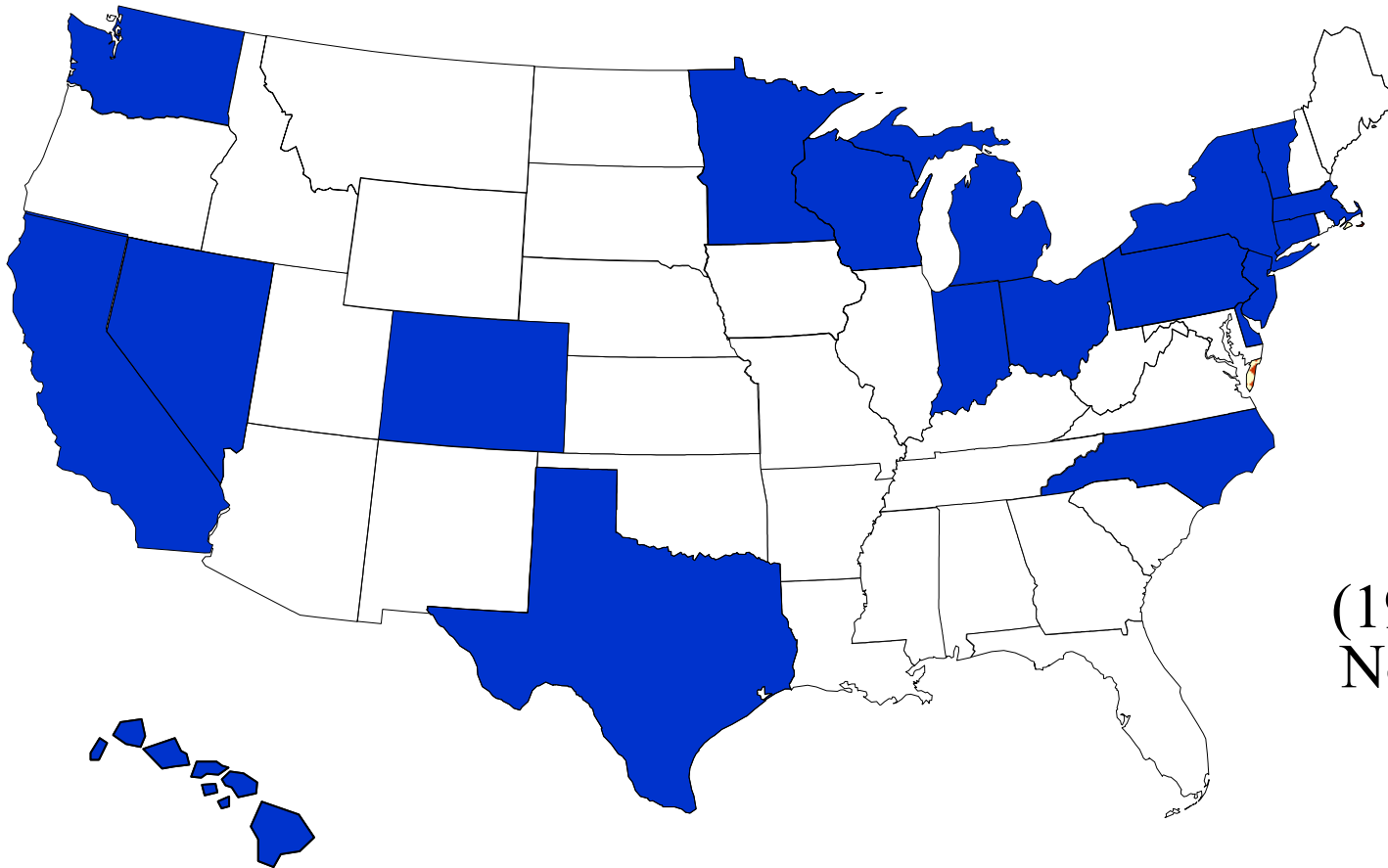
(30 states as of
November 2006)



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Interconnection Standards for Other DG



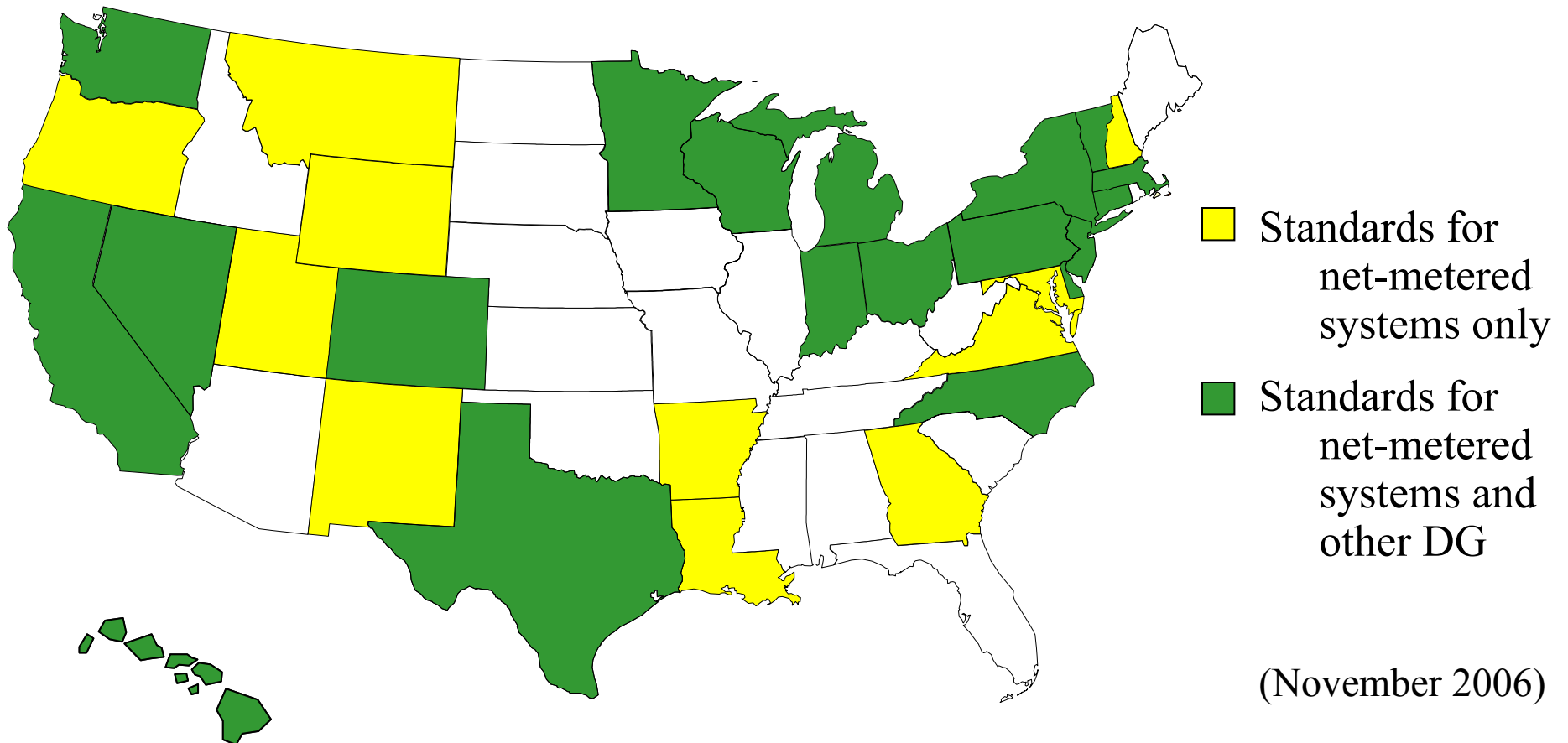
(19 states as of
November 2006)



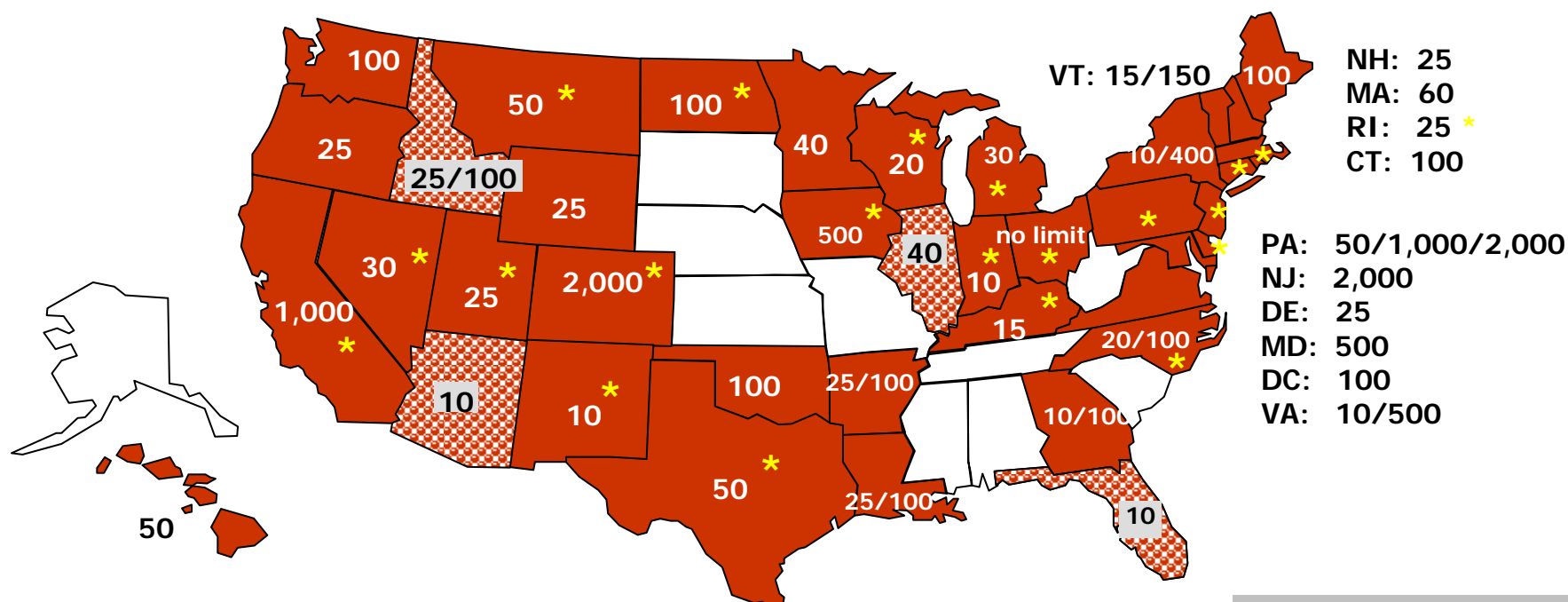
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Interconnection Standards



Net Metering Rules



**Net metering is
available in
40 states + D.C.**

-  State-wide net metering for all utility types
-  State-wide net metering for certain utility types (e.g., IOUs only)
-  Net metering offered by one or more individual utilities

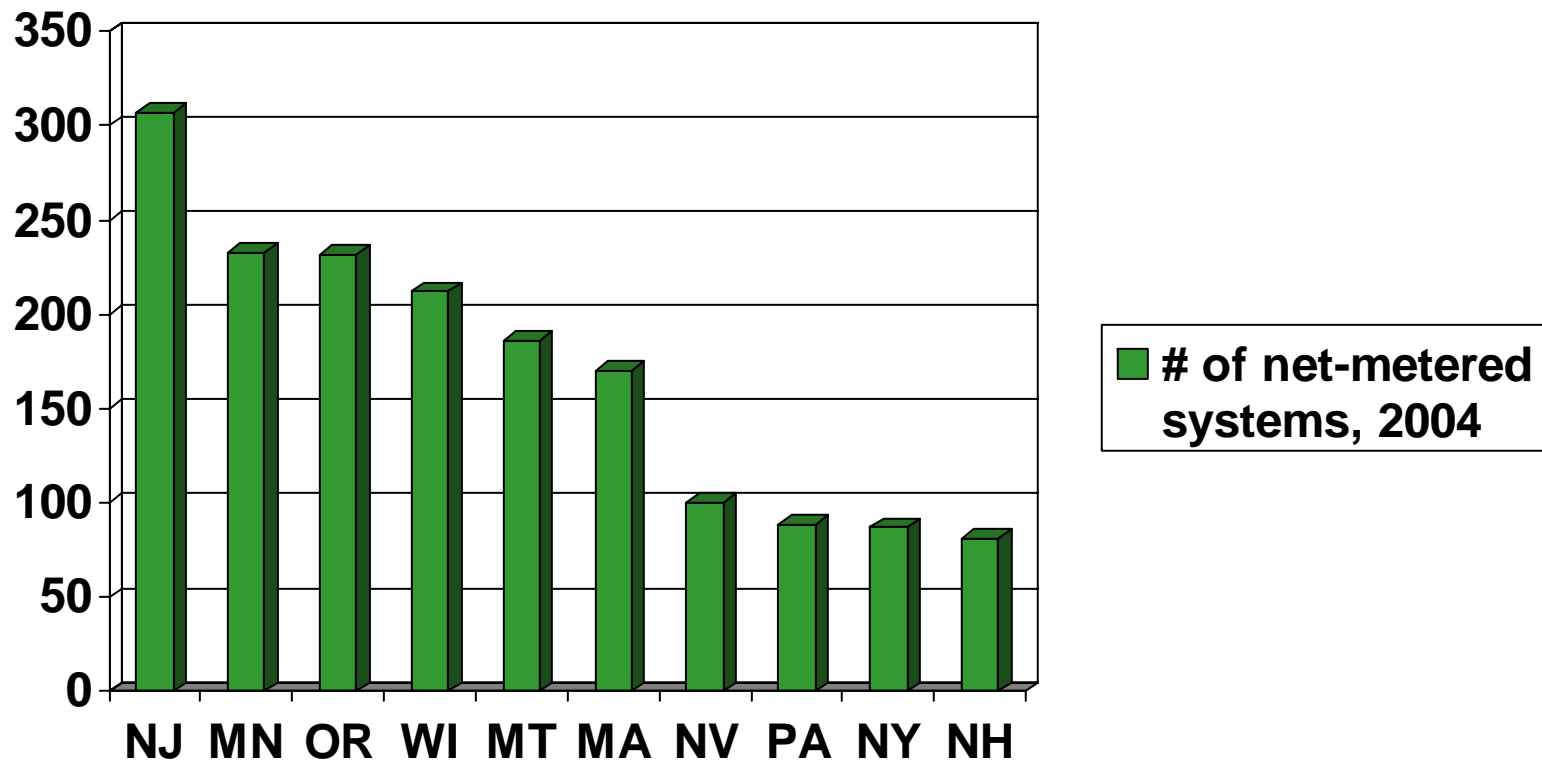
#s indicate system size limit (kW); in some cases limits are different for residential and commercial as shown





State Leaders in Net Metering*

(U.S. EIA estimates, 2004)



* *Something seems to be missing...*



IREC Public Resources

www.irecusa.org/connect

- State-by-state net-metering table (*updated 10/06*)
- State-by-state interconnection table (*updated 10/06*)
- Model interconnection rule (*current*)
- Model net-metering rule (*current*)
- Library of legal documents (*updated 10/06*)
- *Connecting to the Grid* e-newsletter (*published monthly*)
- DSIRE: www.dsireusa.org



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